GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2546
ANSWERED ON:15.12.2015
Impact of Climate Change on BioDiversity
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Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the forests are undergoing a phenomenal shift endangering bio-diversity and causing regional climatic changes in the country and if so, the details thereof;
(b) whether any study has been conducted in this regard, if so, the details and outcome thereof; and
(c) the steps taken by the Government to arrest the said phenomenon and preserve bio-diversity in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR)

(a) to (b) A study by INCCA (Indian Network on Climate Change Assessment) titled "Climate Change and India: A 4x4 Assessment-Regional and Sectoral Analysis for 2030s", was published in the year 2010. The report provides an assessment of impact of climate change in 2030s on four key sectors of the Indian economy, namely Agriculture, Water, Natural Ecosystems & Biodiversity and Health in four climate sensitive regions of India, namely the Himalayan region, the Western Ghats, the Coastal Area and the North-East Region. Further the report indicates the impact of climate change on forests including shifts in forest type boundary, change in net primary productivity and biomass and carbon accumulation rates. However, there is no specific study indicating that phenomenal shifts in forests is endangering biodiversity and causing regional climate change/dynamics in the country.

(c)Some important steps taken by the Government for conservation of biological diversity inter-alia include: survey and inventorisation of floral and faunal resources; assessment of forest cover to develop an accurate database for planning and monitoring; establishment of a Protected Area network of National Parks, Wildlife Sanctuaries, Conservation and Community Reserves; designating Biosphere Reserves for conservation of representative ecosystems; species oriented programmes, such as Project Tiger and Project Elephant, complemented with ex-situ conservation efforts. In addition, Biological Diversity Act 2002 and Rules thereunder aim to conserve biological resources of the country and regulation of access to these resources to ensure equitable sharing of benefits arising out of their use. A National Biodiversity Authority and State Biodiversity Boards have been set up for implementing the provisions of the Act.
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